

# THE LABOUR ORGANISER

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## THE SECRETARY'S PAGE

### HELP AND HINTS IN SEASON.

We understand that the Annual Conference of the Labour Party will this year be held at Scarborough. The last occasion on which the Party Conference met at Scarborough was in 1920. This year, however, a different hall is to be used.

The much advertised, over-engineered, and well financed "Labour Split" which the Mosley group was to accomplish has proved a very tame sensation after all. That something went wrong with the works was evident almost from the first public announcement, but the Mosley engineers suffered from the fact that too many people had been let into their plans. One cannot to-day organise a New Party, engage a staff, and furnish magnificent offices entirely in secret. The result was that when the big bang was due to take place everybody expected it, and the advantages of shock and surprise were entirely lost. However, one outstanding feature of the affair is that after all a new "Labour" Party or a new "Socialist" Party has *not* come to light. The infant is just a "New Party" without embellishments, and with no pretensions to either Labour or Socialist labels. Speaking with an intimate knowledge of the situation in five out of the six seats affected, it seems amazing that the Mosley influence has counted for so little when the Local Parties came to consider the matter. In every case the Local Party has stood solidly by the Movement. Ere these lines are read we believe that the "New Party" will have joined the Communist Party, and its legion of hybrid subsidiaries in the list of organisations, membership of which is held by the Labour Party to be inconsistent with its own membership. And that's that. The Mosley advisers have proved poor counsellors, and a future full of promise has been thrown to the wolves. Of course there will be no by-elections, notwithstanding the demand for resignations. If there were it is more than probable that Labour would regain every seat.

A reader asks us if something cannot be done to prevent the circulation of draw tickets and papers relating to prize ballots, etc., by local Parties into areas beyond their own boundaries. We understand there has lately been a recrudescence of this evil and certain organisations have circulated books of draw tickets far beyond their own sphere of influence to the annoyance, it would appear, of the recipients in some cases. We, however, hardly think that there is a case for some form of suppression of this proceeding, even if suppression was practicable. At one time local secretaries commonly received deluges of this kind of matter but the evil died down simply because it became unremunerative to send out all over the country in this way. The fact that some optimists are trying their luck again need dismay no one, for

#### GOING STRONG—

## LABOUR LIMBS

#### LABOUR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

the remedy is in the hands of the recipients. It seems to us highly improper that any local organisation should seek to carry its appeals for money, or its money raising activities into the territory of other bodies. An attempt is sometimes made to give a national character to certain of these affairs, and this is especially reprehensive. Organisations which do not confine their money-raising endeavours within their own boundaries are rightly accused of poaching; and in some cases the offence is made worse by none too courteous demands for the return of books, etc., sent without request but expected to be returned at the recipient's own expense.

The Labour Movement has never yet worked out a satisfactory method for dealing with removals of supporters from one constituency to another. In the aggregate a great deal of loss takes place owing to this cause. It by no

means follows that because a person is a good worker in one constituency he or she will at once gravitate to the local Party after removal. In the first place there are all the calls of the new home, perhaps a garden, and by the time opportunity arrives inclination and enthusiasm has possibly died down. There is a further reason why these emigrants do not report and that is the difficulty very often experienced of finding out the local secretary. It is an amazing thing that one can go into hundreds of towns and find no ready means for discovering the Secretary of the Labour Party. Everybody knows how to find the parson of any particular denomination. Why not the Labour Secretary? Posters announcing meetings for some reason rarely carry the Local Secretary's address, which is a

## LOCAL LABOUR LIMBS

See Page 47.

pity. We ourselves have often enquired at railway stations when in necessity but this is not always satisfactory. More than once a railwayman, at our suggestion, has turned up a notice of a meeting or a handbill only to find that it lacks the secretary's address. It would appear that there is room for improvement in the direction of making better known the addresses of local officers; such publicity would help not only removals but sympathisers attracted in various ways to the Party.

Meantime the Regional Officers of the Labour Party might be made use of in this matter. We suggest that Parties losing supporters by removal should send to the Regional Officer in the area all the particulars available, for passing to the new constituency. Even where a full address is not given members may sometimes be traced in their new quarters by other particulars and activities. Thus if a man is a signalman and the town to which he has removed is known he might still be traced; so too would persons in many other occupations and a name will even turn up in the polling district register in due course if other means of tracing have failed. Removing members should also be given the advice to report to the local secretary, and an address and post-

card should be given them even if the only address available is that of the National Labour Party. Local Secretaries should remember that if this subject receives general attention any services they render to other Parties in this matter are rewarded by a like return.

In one or two areas quite a deal of confusion has been caused in the last few months by the number of county conferences convened by different organisations all associated with the Labour Movement. Not only the Labour Party, but individual constituency Parties, the I.L.P., Trades Councils Federations, and others, have acquired the habit of calling County or "Regional" Conferences. When these functions are held on the same dates or close together it is obvious that local movements can get too much of them. The time has arrived to call a halt and we think that Local Parties should study the bona fides of some of these conferences before deciding to send delegates. Where a County Conference is called by an established Federation there can be no cavil, but where other organisations desire to do this thing it is at least proper to consult the National Labour Party if Local Labour Parties are expected to be represented.

We believe that a number of Local Parties have not yet taken any action in the "Daily Herald" new campaign, although we understand that the whole of the helpers in last year's campaign have been communicated with and urged to take a part in the present big push. An attempt is being made to raise the circulation to 1,500,000 copies, and the organisation that was built last year, if it can be brought into play again, is capable of far exceeding this figure. As on the previous occasion both the helper and the Movement benefit financially in respect of every new reader secured. The helper gets sixpence per reader on verification of the order and a further sixpence per reader at the end of ten weeks, provided the order is still in force. The Local Labour Party or other organisation nominated by the helper receives fourpence per reader and National Headquarters receives the sum of twopence. This attractive offer ought to be sufficient to induce thousands of helpers to devote a few evenings to the job of canvassing new readers. We sincerely hope that Local Parties will



do their utmost to foster this endeavour and to organise their workers to take part in it. Incidentally, we would remind readers that the closing date for the "Daily Herald" radio competition—one of the biggest things in this line ever attempted—is March 21st. We wish the readers of the "Labour Organiser" good luck in the ballot. May the £15,000 come to one of our readers!

An interesting scheme is now being put into operation in some divisions which is as follows. One hundred (or any other number) of names of either known supporters or electors taken from the register are given an invitation by personal invitation card to a Party meeting or special social event. The invitation is worded something as follows:

Miss L. Abour, the Prospective Labour Candidate for — Division, requests the pleasure of the company of

.....  
at a Social evening to be held in the Labour Rooms, ————  
—, on Saturday, —, at 7 p.m.

MUSICAL PROGRAMME.  
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS.

(Kindly hand in this card at the door.)

The result of these personal invitations is that quite a good proportion of the recipients turn up to the function, whether it is a meeting or a social. The cards handed in at the door give the nett result. The same hundred persons will receive invitations to the next three or four meetings, and then persons who have never responded at all will be dropped out and new people invited in their places. By this time too a proportion of the original guests will have joined the Party or the time is ripe to ask them to do so. After membership is obtained they will drop out of the special invitations.

The system described certainly has merits, and we believe it has been very successful in at least one important constituency. It is essential however, that the scheme should be consistently worked and nothing should interfere

with the order of the invitations described. The scheme must of course dovetail into a definite series of functions, either meetings or socials. This working to a definite plan in two directions is bound to accomplish results.

A large number of Divisional Labour Parties have already opened their local election fund for the next General Election, and some have never closed it since the last one. We would strongly urge the desirability of considering the election fund at the earliest possible moment. It is futile to leave this matter till the last minute. The existence of an election fund has a psychological effect on a Party. It stimulates and concentrates effort and there is the further advantage that money raised in time can be spent more economically. When a fund is created it should be inviolable, and it should be banked separately from the general fund of the Party. There is a strong moral obligation on all concerned to keep intact monies raised for this specific purpose, and we were pleased at a recent local Party meeting to note that the Chairman refused to accept a motion which would have meant a "temporary" borrowing from the election fund for general purposes. This is the right line to take.

Mr. F. Edwards, Hon. Secretary of the South Tottenham Labour Party, writes:—"My experience has proved to me the vital necessity of the Labour Movement encouraging the development of individual membership. To my mind, this is the greatest need of the future, and I have been pleased to note that the 'Labour Organiser' has consistently advocated the increasing importance of individual membership. I feel, however, that the Movement nationally has not yet fully realised the importance of this. I would like to see the Trade Union Officials take steps to encourage all Trade Unionists to join their Constituency Parties as Individual Members, and I also think the columns of the 'Daily Herald' could also be utilised to encourage our supporters to join the Party."

#### SPECIAL NOTICE!!

**SOLD OUT :** Will Secretaries who have copies of our January issue to spare please send same to the Editor immediately? Allowance made.

## THE COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTIONS.

Our readers, like ourselves, will have found it somewhat difficult to ascertain the nett result, or even the general trend of the results of the County Elections from the meagre information vouchsafed by the daily papers. There seems also to be a lack of information the disappointing reports that have in Party circles, and this coupled with reached us goes to show that the Movement has once again failed to take the County Council Elections as seriously as it ought to.

From the reports to hand we think it is clear that no great advance has been made, if any, and the causes for this partial failure require serious examination. In some parts of the country the contests were isolated and disjointed, but in a number of Counties the candidates fought under one banner and some central County auspices. In the latter Counties we believe the results have been better, and certainly information is easier to get. The principal reason for want of general success appears to have been the lack of candidates, because in many most favourable areas no candidate was forthcoming. This lack of candidates must be faced up to at an early opportunity, and if funds are needed to make candidatures possible, then funds must be raised for that purpose.

The County Federations rendered excellent service to the candidate in their areas, though in some cases the Federations being newly-formed did not get to work in time. It is pleasing to record that Labour retained its majority on the County Councils which it has already captured. Our readers will be particularly interested in the Durham results. Mr. J. W. Foster, the Secretary of the Durham County Federation of D.L.P.s, kindly informs us that after one of the keenest and toughest fights in Labour's history the Party emerged victors as follows:—

LABOUR 44 Seats. MODERATES 26 Seats. INDEPENDENTS 4 Seats.

These results indicate a nett loss of two seats to Labour, one of them being a loss to an Independent. There are at present twelve Labour Aldermen, but the Labour majority will this month have the opportunity of electing thirteen others, and we take it that they will make use of their opportunity to increase the number of Aldermen to twenty-five. With such a preponder-

ance we may look for a continuance of the magnificent work accomplished by the Durham County Council during its two periods of Labour control.

## COUNTY COUNCIL ELECTION EXPENSES.

Candidates at the recent County Council Elections are reminded that whether successful or not a return of election expenses must be sent in to the returning officer within twenty-one days after the day of election.

No special form of election return is provided, and the statement may be a mere inventory of the items expended, set out in any order which the candidate pleases. It is, however, advisable to observe some sequence in the details given, and the items paid to individual firms or persons must be set out separately and not lumped together. Sums expended of twenty shillings or over must be vouched for by bills (i.e., invoices) stating the particulars and receipts.

The time limited by the Act for sending in claims is fourteen days after the day of election, and if not so sent in they are statute barred. All election expenses must be paid within twenty days after the day of election.

## CENSUS, 1931.

How many Secretaries have realised that the present is just the psychological moment to procure an exhaustive list of Labour supporters in every area?

On the opposite page we reproduce a Census card, admirably suited to the present occasion. If worked with enthusiasm and energy a census taken during the next month should result in thousands of names being procured in many constituencies, and even in the poorest area, the taking of a census would result in much information concerning undiscovered supporters.

A moment's consideration will show that a Party in possession of a big list of supporters is able to utilise this list in many ways. It may be made a basis of a special canvass for membership; it may be made a circle to which Party publications and notices, or even tickets for sale may be sent; it may be used for registration purposes; and, above all, it provides a splendid kick-off for an election. One of the first steps in an election is to call to the colours one's supporters, and this can be done either by a special circular sent



THIS IS CENSUS YEAR! The Blankshire Divisional Labour Party wants to know the name and address of every Labour supporter in this Division. This information is to help us in organisation, registration work, and in winning and holding the Seat for Labour.

Please read the circular sent with this card, and enter below the name of every supporter you can procure. More cards and fuller information may be obtained from your Ward Secretary.

[illegible]

Name of Labour Census Taker .....

through the post, or hand delivered. The Party which is able to mobilise its forces first has a great advantage over its opponents.

A number of Parties are now adopting this scheme for working during the present spring. If the scheme is first discussed by the Local Party enthusiasm and interest is aroused, and this should be immediately followed up by a circular to every worker enclosing a number of cards.

Circumstances will differ, but the general plan should be to work the scheme through the ward secretaries, and to get a weekly return of the cards so that the census should be completed within a month. A good deal of work will, then remain for volunteers to accomplish. The names should be marked in the register and this will eliminate duplicates. The Party should then consider to what immediate use the list should be put.

We strongly advise our readers to take up the plan outlined above. The moment is exactly ripe and the cost of the cards is infinitesimal compared with the advantages to be reaped.

#### LEAFLETS FOR THE DISTRICT COUNCIL ELECTION.

Two useful leaflets for use in the District Council elections have been published by the Labour Party. Leaflet 292 is entitled "What Your District Council Can Do," and leaflet 291 is entitled "Nine Reasons Why Women Should Vote Labour in the District Council Elections."

Both leaflets are priced at four shillings per thousand, carriage paid, and prompt orders are now necessary.

We will take this opportunity of reminding our readers that the new edition of the Local Government Speaker's Handbook is now ready, and is full of useful fact and information for the elections. It is priced at sixpence per copy.

#### APPRECIATION.

I look forward to the "L.O." each month, and I only wish more of our members could read it. Some of them—the critics and apologists—might then get down to some real work. If all the energy wasted in criticising our movement were put to better use, some of our Parties would have wonderful memberships.

Yours fraternally,

RAY DALE.

Whitstable.

Your journal is very highly appreciated by our Ward Secretaries, and nothing but good reports are heard.

W. H. OLDFIELD.

Gorton.

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W. W. Forreth, Manager

The "Rising Tide" is the title of a little duplicated quarto monthly commenced in January by the Tavistock Divisional Labour Party. It is ambitious in conception and exceedingly well edited and worked off. We hope the new paper will prove the foundation of a successful printed journal. Address: The "Rising Tide," W. J. Swords, Editor, "Dalhousie," Smallock, Crownhill, Devon.

The Derby Labour Party have commenced publication of the Derby "Democrat," a monthly journal of similar size to the "L.O." The contents are of local interest and we note that the first issue contains a Women's Corner, Children's Corner, a prize competition and a Labour diary for the month. We wish this venture every success and trust that Derby will succeed in keeping its Labour monthly. Address: The "Derby Democrat," W. B. Steer, Editor, 93, Green Lane, Derby.



# LABOUR LIMBS at CARLISLE and BRISTOL, E.

## TWO STRIKING SUCCESSES AT 1d. PER WEEK.

A striking success was achieved by the Carlisle Labour Party last year in the working of the Penny Per Week Membership Scheme. The total income from individual membership in Carlisle in 1929 amounted to £22 18s. 2d. At the beginning of 1930 the Executive Committee instituted the Penny Per Week Scheme with the result that the total income for 1930 from this source reached a sum of no less than £317 8s. 7d.

The Party began by obtaining about seven hundred members in February, 1930. A steady push was maintained throughout the year, the result being that at the end of January, 1931, 2,314 members were paying under the scheme. We desire to convey our heartiest congratulations to the Carlisle Labour Party, to its agent (Mr. A. C. Powell) and to the Treasurer (Mr. Sydney W. Evans), whose statement and return is particularly clear and satisfying.

Carlisle's success in this matter will, we are sure, encourage other Parties. An attempt is to be made to double the membership once again during the current year, and the budget of the Party for this year actually builds upon an income of £500 from members' subscriptions. In relation to its size Carlisle now holds one of the foremost positions, if not the first place among Divisional Labour Parties in relation to membership and income therefrom. The report claims that in respect of size Carlisle holds first place in membership, though we are afraid that there are one or two other places ready to contest this claim. The more the better!

The benefits which this Party has derived from the splendid work of the past year are to be seen not only in the financial returns, but as the agent in his report remarks "the scheme has been most useful from an organisational and registrational point of view. Week by week we have a list of new members. We could also tell immediately all the transfers of our members from one ward to another; all those who leave the town; and all those who pass away. If necessary we are also in a position to circularise within a few hours the whole of our membership."

The membership scheme in Carlisle

is worked on a commission basis, and we note that during the past year the sum of £74 13s. 8d. was paid as commission to collectors; there was also a refund to wards of £68 6s. 3d. Incidentally, the ward organisation is evidently in a flourishing condition for included in the balance sheet is an item showing that £60 11s. 4d. is held by ward organisations in their local funds.

A word of congratulation is also due to the Carlisle Labour Party in regard to the "Daily Herald" Campaign last year. Some three thousand "Daily Heralds" are sold in Carlisle and the Party profited from its work in last year's campaign to the tune of £62 8s. 6d.

The development of individual membership in Carlisle now justifies the expense of a full-time salaried collector, and this information and the above story of the developments which have led up to this appointment, will be of interest to many of our readers, who have enquired for information bearing on this matter.

We had hoped this month to have printed an article dealing with the working of individual membership in Bristol East. The article was promised us by Mr. H. E. Rogers, the local agent, who was election agent in the recent successful by-election. We regret that Mr. Rogers is down with influenza, but we hope to have the pleasure of his article next month.

In the meantime the balance sheet of the Bristol East Divisional Labour Party is to hand, and we observe that the individual membership stood at the end of the year at 2,279 members, being an increase of 1,369 on the year. It is interesting to note that during the year the Penny Per Week Scheme produced the sum of £159 2s. 5d.

Commission is paid both to collectors and to canvassers, and the Ward Committees also receive their proportion. There are now eighty collectors who are supervised by twelve supervisors—an arrangement which is apparently working well, and which confirms the view recently expressed in these columns that a sufficiency of supervisors is absolutely necessary to the successful working of any collectorship scheme.

The annual report also contains other interesting information. Thus 2,200 new readers were secured in last year's "Daily Herald" campaign—an excellent return. The statement of accounts shows that all the Wards have had a successful year, and the balance sheet for each ward and women's section is given. Some of the wards have splendid balances in hand.

The work undertaken in connection with the Parliamentary By-election is enumerated in the report, and we quote this in full for it will prove an eye-opener to some of our readers:—

"Our poll was 19,261 with a majority of 11,324. We cannot over-emphasise the wonderful energy which secured this splendid victory, and the following information is a general survey of the work accomplished:—57,000 envelopes were addressed and filled with election material and New Year Greeting Cards; 47,000 cards were written; 17,000 envelopes with messages from the Prime Minister and Lady Cripps were filled; 2,000 envelopes containing a special message to shopkeepers were also filled. Canvass Cards were prepared, and upon this branch of the work about 150 writers were employed; the major portion of the writing being undertaken in our members' homes. Considerable literature was also distributed, which

comprised 16,000 reprints of an interview with the Western Daily Press; 17,000 photo cards, 17,000 canvassers' introduction cards, 17,000 Election News Specials. The Ward organisation also undertook the responsibility for the completion of 170 nomination papers, which is equivalent to 1,700 signatures, which is a record for Bristol. The ward machinery also managed 27 indoor meetings and distributed 33,000 meeting bills in addition to the above-mentioned literature. 15 Committee Rooms were also efficiently manned for two weeks of the campaign. The canvassers were also faithful in their duties, and during 10 days the whole of the constituency was canvassed and over 800 removals were traced. During Polling Day we were served by an army of faithful comrades, and 30 motor cars served 21 Polling Stations, and were manned by 30 car attendants; 21 Committee Rooms were controlled by 36 Committee Room Clerks. 42 Personation Agents were watching our interest in the Polling Stations, 25 checkers were on duty securing the number of persons as they recorded their votes. Approximately 700 workers of East Bristol were responsible for the splendid result which secured Sir Stafford Cripps, Solicitor General, as a Member of Parliament for East Bristol."



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# THE ELECTORAL REFORM BILL.

## Some Suggested Amendments.

In our last issue we published the text of the Representation of the People Bill now before Parliament. It is the general expectation that this Bill will pass through the House of Commons, possibly with some alterations, but with its main provisions unchanged.

A lengthened consideration in these columns of the provisions of the Bill is superfluous in view of the fact that the Committee stage of the Bill is now being entered upon, and that considerable progress will have been made before this issue of the "Labour Organiser" is published. Nevertheless, our readers will probably look for some comment on the Bill, and there are one or two amendments which we strongly advocate. We propose therefore, to review the Bill as briefly as possible.

In the first place, it should be understood that this Bill is confined to Parliamentary elections. The Bill is not a wide measure for general reform and does not touch upon Local Government matters at all. Amendments are limited to the few matters mentioned in the preamble, and it is impossible to go very far outside the actual proposals of the Bill. Though this may be disappointing it should be remembered that barring the alternative vote, a better short selection of reforms could hardly have been made and this is some consolation for the narrow lines of the measure.

*Clause 1.* This clause, which enacts the alternative vote, is already through Committee. Its operation is, however, to be deferred until the next General Election. We ourselves share the distrust of this proposal, which we believe is general throughout the Movement. It has to be remembered, however, that the House of Commons has more than once expressed its approval of the alternative vote, and that only the Lords' preference for Proportional Representation prevented the alternative vote from being included in the 1918 Act. Undoubtedly questions of high policy have prompted the decision to include the alternative vote in the present measure. While, therefore, the proposal, standing alone, might seem highly objectionable, it has to be weighed in with other clauses in the measure which are undoubtedly of tremendous value to Labour.

*Clause 2.* The division of certain double-membered constituencies which this clause makes, will involve divisional organisations in double-membered constituencies in an immediate re-organisation and realignment of local Labour forces. Notwithstanding this inconvenience, the change will probably be welcomed by Labour in all the constituencies concerned.

We conceive that such opposition as there may be to this clause will be based mainly on the argument that such changes should only be made as part of a general scheme of redistribution. However, that may be, the parties in the constituencies may as well be reminded that the boundaries of the divisions created by the present Bill are likely to be of a temporary nature only. A general scheme of redistribution would probably still further alter the boundaries of all the constituencies concerned, if only in order to make the Parliamentary boundaries contiguous with the present extended municipal boundaries—extensions which have taken place since the last distribution. This will not be done by the present measure.

*Clause 3.* This clause abolishes plural voting in Parliamentary Elections. There is however, what we conceive to be a serious weakness in its wording. A person is to be disentitled to be registered in respect of a business premises qualification in any register *made after the passing of the Act*. As registers are only compiled annually it is obvious that the actual date of the passing of the Act (whether this year or under the Parliament Act) may so fall as to impose an altogether unnecessary delay of twelve months before this clause comes into operation.

We print the clause below. The words in italics are words we would like to see added and the words between brackets are words we suggest should be left out.

"No person shall be entitled to be registered *or to vote* as a parliamentary elector by virtue of a business premises qualification (in any register made) after the passing of this Act for any constituency other than the city of London, and after the passing of this Act no person shall vote at a general election for more than one constituency."

(Continued on page 51.)

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*Clause 4.* This clause abolishes University constituencies, and with this proposal everyone of our readers will agree.

*Clause 5.* This clause contains provisions for enabling the polls to be postponed in the islands if the conveyance of ballot boxes and ballot papers is delayed by reason of inclement weather. We are unable to understand why this special concession is to be made to islanders only. Our recent winters have given us many examples where the conveyance of ballot boxes, etc., might have been delayed owing to fog, floods, snow, etc., and we are of the opinion that if it is sound to defer the taking of the poll at any station in any island on account of weather conditions, it is equally sound to allow the same consideration to operate on the mainland.

*Clause 6.* This clause restricts the use of vehicles at Parliamentary elections. As the Bill stands there is an extraordinary provision by which persons desirous of lending their vehicles for the conveyance of voters may register such vehicles with the Returning Officer, who is to allot the vehicles as he thinks desirable after consultation with the election agents. Regulations may be made by the Secretary of State governing the manner of registration.

We frankly confess that we hold an extremely poor opinion of this proposal. We believe the scheme proposed is entirely unworkable. But the worst feature of the clause is that it imposes no penalty on owners or drivers who disappoint or trick the Returning Officer, and no powers are taken to punish any breach of regulations made. As the clause stands many ludicrous positions may be imagined, and we cannot conceive that the clause will be passed as it stands. We have every reason to believe that some reconsideration is taking place in an endeavour to find a satisfactory solution of the problem involved.

In Sub-section 4 of this clause a definition of the vehicles to which the section applies is given, and we are surprised to note that "vehicles intended or adapted for use on roads" are the only vehicles the use of which is to be prohibited for the conveyance of voters to the poll. Surely the use of aeroplanes and river boats should be prohibited. With the extension of private ownership of aeroplanes the abuse of these means of conveyance ought to be anticipated.

There is a further weakness in Clause 6 inasmuch as the prohibition of the use of vehicles applies only to conveyance to the poll. It would apparently be perfectly legal to lend vehicles for the purpose of taking voters back to their homes.

*Clause 7.* This clause reduces the scale of election expenses from sixpence to fivepence per elector in County Divisions, and from fivepence to fourpence in boroughs. Notwithstanding these reductions the average sum which may be spent per constituency will still, on the present electorate, remain at a figure not far short of a thousand pounds. We should have liked to have seen either a total maximum (say of £750) imposed or a reducing scale for electorates of over thirty thousand.

*Clauses 8 and 9.* These clauses merely indicate consequential amendments, the title and repeals.

*The Schedules.* The first schedule is the one of most concern to our readers, and this lays down rules for voting according to the principle of the alternative vote. We have some reason to believe that expert advice will lead to some slight alterations in these rules.

An Order in Council is to make the various adaptations of the Ballot Act that become necessary owing to the provisions of the Act, and we understand that the Home Office still have this matter under consideration.

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**H. DRINKWATER,**

Editor-Manager,

The Labour Organiser, Fernhill  
Heath, near Worcester.

## LITERATURE SALES IN LOCAL PARTIES.

A reproach that can legitimately be laid at the door of many local Parties is their neglect of literature sales. In this matter we have fallen away tremendously from the early practices of the movement, and the time has arrived when most Parties should examine their activities in this direction with a view to encouraging the maximum sale and distribution of literature.

It is a fact that probably seventy-five per cent., possibly more, Local Parties have no Literature Secretary, and no stock of literature. This situation is enough to make some of the pioneers turn in their graves, for they at least believed in the power of the printed word, and the Socialist movement owes its power and position to-day largely owing to the zeal and enthusiasm with which literature was pushed in the early days.

Yet there is more literature available to-day of the right sort than ever before, and there is hardly a subject of live political moment on which some specialised literature is not available. There is also an adequate supply of general offensive and defensive literature, besides well-edited periodicals whose facts can be relied on as having come through the test of careful research—a facility and a precaution not open to the early pamphleteers whose conclusions were sometimes sounder than their statements.

Yet with all this wealth and power for persuasion, it is an amazing fact that a big section of our movement are hopelessly uninformed as to the literature available. Wherever the fault lies, and it may be faulty publicity (though we think it is more due to faulty reception) we challenge contradiction of the statement we have made.

The remedy lies, not in flooding the movement with advertising literature which would eat into the profits of the publications, but in each Party electing its Literature Secretary and a Committee to work with him (or her). It should be a standing order that the Secretary should buy at least six copies of every new pamphlet for the Committee's inspection and instructions. Such a process would dispose of the present ignorance concerning Party and other publications. *We strongly urge this plan on the attention of every Party.*

The Literature Department of a Local Party ought to prove one of its

best paying sidelines, apart altogether from the tremendous propaganda advantages that are derived from its work. Some Parties cherish in secret a small stock of literature, the remnants probably of supplies obtained for some big meeting. Much of such stuff we have seen in local possession ought to be scrapped, and a proper beginning made in setting up an efficient Literature Department.

We have many times in these columns ridiculed the lack of business enterprise of some of our people, who never understand the meaning of business outlay, and who are afraid to capitalise any Party venture whether it be a Bazaar, a Prize Draw or anything else. A business venture requires capital to start with, though not necessarily a lot. How many Literature Secretaries in the past have been compelled to start by getting stock on credit, and putting themselves and everybody else to inconvenience and extra expense before finally settling the bill?

Let us urge upon Parties the desirability of voting the newly established Literature Department a small sum of money to play with. Some Parties can afford £5 or £10, others perhaps only 10s. But it is better to buy for cash just the amount that can be afforded and to turn this over quickly than to buy heavily on credit and find a lot of unsold stuff on hand which must be paid for. There is a definite incentive to quick sales if cash is sent with the order; and good buying is encouraged.

A word about periodicals. The various Socialist weeklies now dead and gone (and the "New Leader" probably also) could tell a tale of stocks sent on "sale or return" and never sold—perhaps not even accounted for. Personally we do not believe in "sale or return" terms for any class of literature, and the "Labour Organiser" has never been sold on those terms. It is bad business all round. The sale of weekly periodicals through the Literature Department is a thing not to be encouraged and it is a most uncertain venture at the best—therefore only on exceptional occasions should publications be handled.

Monthly publications are a different thing, but successful buying is necessary and for preference only one or two copies should be obtained over and above definite orders.

The Literature Secretary who is out for business should always have his eye open for the publication which will



come along and command a wild-fire sale. During the last few months the Labour Party pamphlet "What the Labour Government Has Done" has been something that might have been sold in thousands—certainly in hundreds in most constituencies. It is rare good value for one penny, tested even by quantity standards. But it is also well written and highly informative.

Now a Literature Secretary who sold five hundred of these would actually have made a profit of 11s. 8d.—£1 3s. 4d. on a thousand copies. *There have been many meetings this winter where 500 copies could have been sold at a single meeting.*

Let us take another opportunity. The Labour Year Book consists of 500 pages and it is almost unbelievable that any person presuming to take a prominent part in our movement, or to pose as a local leader or public man or woman, can do without the references and information contained in this all important book. Cloth bound it costs 5s. or in paper cover 3s. 6d. Is there a party of any pretensions and with any record of public activities which could not get rid of a dozen cloth-bound copies? Five dozen is not an impossible sale and that means a profit of £3 15s. 0d.

We could go on illustrating with other publications, but what we want to urge in the connection just mentioned is the futility of timidity, and the replacement of paralysing lack of enterprise by a really vigorous attempt to sell. Labour publications are not dear, and there is a wide open market for their sale every day of the year including Sundays.

#### A TOTTENHAM TIP.

The New Year Jottings of the South Tottenham D.L.P. published on the fourth page of the printed balance sheet are worth reproduction. It will be noted how the various activities of the Party are enumerated and a "pull" is put into the paragraphs which makes each jotting a very effective advertisement:—

The Party Officers appreciate the value of your membership, and trust you will continue to support the Party in the future, as in the past.

Mr. Fred Messer, your M.P., is always willing to give help and advice to any member of the Party at any time.

It would be a fine idea if every mem-

ber enrolled one new member each week during the next few weeks. Just invite a friend to your next Ward Meeting, and persuade them to join the Party.

With the help of a band of volunteers, we are able to distribute 10,000 copies of the "Citizen" each month in South Tottenham. If you do not get a copy, call at the Party Offices and ask for one. If you would like to help to distribute the "Citizen," tell your Ward Secretary.

If you want any information about the party at any time, write or call at the Party Offices. The Offices are open every evening from 7-30 to 9-30 p.m.

Help to make the work of the Street Stewards as easy as possible by letting them know the best time for them to call for your Subscriptions. If possible pay them a month or a quarter in advance. They will appreciate this, and it will save them a great deal of time and worry.

Have you been to our Saturday Evening Socials lately? These are held every week, and are advertised in the "Tottenham Sentinel" and the "Tottenham Herald." Just come along and bring your friends.

Women members should try to attend the Women's Section Meetings every week. Young members should try to attend the League of Youth Meetings every week. All members should try to attend the Ward Meetings every month. A large attendance encourages the Officers in their work, and they will always be pleased to see you.

When you receive a Circular, always read it carefully, as it will contain something that affects you, and will interest you.

Take a pride in your Ward, and try to make it better than the other Wards. Healthy competition is good for the Party.

Take a pride in the Party, and help it in every way you can. It is a fine Party. It has a fine body of members. It is a part of the great Labour movement. You have a right to be proud of the Movement to which you belong.

## POSTERS FOR EVERY PURPOSE

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Dances : Rallies : Elections

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**NETHERFIELD : : NOTTINGHAM**



## QUESTIONS ANSWERED HERE

### Candidate Nominates Himself.

*Question* Would you be good enough to answer the following question for me: Is a candidate for a seat on an Urban District Council—or any other Council—who is registered as a Local Government Elector in the ward in which he is nominated as a candidate, allowed to sign his own nomination form as proposer or seconder, nominating himself as candidate?

Rogers says "The nomination paper must be signed by two local government electors of the district, or, if the district is divided into wards, of the ward, as proposer and seconder."

I have always understood that to mean that the nomination form must be signed by two local government electors distinct and apart from the person of the candidate, even though he or she may be registered as local government electors in that district or ward and qualified to sign a nomination paper. Personally I have never known a candidate sign his own nomination paper, but I am told that it is frequently done. This is news to me, and I would like to hear what you say about the matter.

*Answer.* We have never in our experience come across a nomination paper in any class of election signed by the candidate himself, and though we have made enquiries of a number of Labour Election Agents, the experience appears to be unique. In our opinion there is nothing in any of the Statutes or Rules governing the different classes of elections which expressly forbids any person from acting as his own proposer or seconder, but we do not think that such procedure is contemplated by law, and we certainly should not like to rely upon any nomination paper so signed. While we are of the opinion that a Returning Officer would not be justified in rejecting a nomination of this sort, we are certain that there would

be sufficient doubt in the minds of some R.O.'s to cause them to reject the paper; the only remedy is that of a costly petition. Further, if a candidate signs his own paper it either stamps him as an eccentric and braggart kind of person or betrays the utter lack of support behind him.

### The Council's Landlord Disqualified.

*Question.* A candidate at the forthcoming election is a person who rents a house to the Council for welfare purposes. Can you tell me whether this is a disqualification? If it is a disqualification if directly rented to the Council would it still be a disqualification if the tenants were the Public Assistance Committee?

*Answer.* In our opinion a person who lets a house to the County Council has a contract with that body within the terms of Section 12 of the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, and such person is certainly disqualified.

With regard to a contract with the Public Assistance Committee it must be remembered that Public Assistance Committees are not distinct corporate bodies. Public Assistance Committees are Committees of the County Council or Borough Council, as the case may be, and a contract with a Committee of the Council is virtually a contract with the Council itself.

### Councillor Takes Relief Tickets.

*Question.* (1) Must a County Councillor resign if he has a shop and desires to receive Relief Vouchers made against the County Council of which he is a member? If so under what statute or statutes? Must he resign if the business is on his wife's name?

(2) If the County Councillor resigns and pays the fine, in order to receive relief notes in his own or in his wife's name, is he eligible for nomination at the County Council election which takes place within six months after his resignation?



*Answer.* We are of opinion that a Councillor who receives relief vouchers holds a contract with the Council, and he is therefore disqualified by the Municipal Corporations Act, 1882, Section 12 (1) (c). This Act is applied to County Council Elections by the Local Government Act, 1888, Section 2 (1).

If the business is in the wife's name no disqualification exists, provided of course that the husband has no share or interest in the business. The fact that a husband or wife is supported by the earnings of the other partner does not disclose the kind of interest in a contract, direct or indirect, contemplated by the Statute.

With regard to the second question we are not altogether clear as to its meaning. If the County Councillor does receive these relief vouchers he is disqualified, and is subject to a penalty for acting while disqualified. Disqualification will exist as long as the contract remains, but the person would become qualified again directly the disqualification ceases, i.e., when he no longer held an interest in a contract with the Council. It should be noted that the interest continues until the relief vouchers are paid for by the Council.

#### **Parish Chairman's Qualifications.**

*Question.* The question I wish to ask is, we have a gentleman who takes the chair at the meeting where the election of Parish Councillors takes place, this person has an appointment under the Parish Council, for which he is paid £2 per year, does this disqualify him from taking the chair?

This person is anti-Labour, and last election meeting accepted a demand for a poll from one elector because all the Labour nominees had been elected, we had always been held to five electors before.

*Answer.* The person who should take the chair at the election of Parish Councillors should be the Chairman of the Parish Council. If this gentleman held a contract or employment under the Council he would be disqualified to be the Chairman of the Parish Council, though the County Council may remove such disqualification.

On the other hand it is within the power of the parish meeting to elect a chairman for the evening. Such chairman must be a parish elector, but the disqualifications which would apply to a Parish Councillor do not apply to the Chairman of the parish meeting.

Five electors are necessary to force a poll, but the Chairman has the power

of assenting to a poll without the demand being made by the prescribed number of electors.

**BE A LIMB  
NOT A LAMB**

**Join the LABOUR PARTY**

#### **Polling Stations and County Council.**

*Question.* Can you give me any information regarding polling stations under the Statutory Rules and Order, 1931, No. 23?

The town of \_\_\_\_\_ is divided into three wards. For the last few years, we have had one polling station in the north ward and two polling stations in each of the central and south wards, for use during our municipal elections. These two additional stations were obtained through the efforts of Labour representatives on the Urban District Council, and were sanctioned by the County Council.

The Clerk to the U.D.C., who is the Returning Officer, tells me that under the new Order we are prohibited from having these extra stations, and he is only providing one for each ward in the forthcoming elections on March 28th. Can you tell me if this is correct?

*Answer.* The paragraph in the Statutory Rules and Orders on which the Returning Officer is apparently relying is Rule 13 (b) which reads:—

"Where the number of local government electors in the Urban District, or, if the district is divided into polling districts, in any polling district is not more than five hundred only one polling station shall, unless the County Council otherwise direct, be provided for the urban district or polling district; and so on for each additional five hundred local government electors, or for any less number of local government electors over and above the last five hundred."

It will be noted that this rule permits additional polling stations *where the County Council direct*. Although the Statutory Rules and Orders have just been revised they merely supersede the previously existing rules, and the provision above quoted was contained in the Order now superseded. It would appear that the County Council acted under the old Order, and we are of opinion that the issue of the new Order

does not in any way cancel the direction made by the County Council. We advise our correspondent to immediately raise this aspect of the question with the Returning Officer, and also to communicate this point of view to the Clerk to the County Council, whose instructions are apparently being defied or misunderstood.

#### **District Council Elections.**

*Question.* Is it necessary to have an agent for our District Council Election: Cannot the candidate be his own agent and pay his own bills, and is it necessary to have a committee room? Will not the candidate's own house serve as committee room?

*Answer.* An election agent is not necessary in a District Council Election, though it is the practice in most important contests to appoint someone to take charge, and this person bears the courtesy title of election agent.

There is nothing to prevent the employment of an election agent in a Local Government Election, but such person may not be paid as such, and in any case the election agent has no special status as in a Parliamentary Election. Where it is desired to pay an election agent in a Local Government Election this is usually done by giving the agent a status as clerk.

Regarding the use of a committee room there is no compulsion in a District Council Election as in a Parliamentary Election to have an "office" to which "all claims, notices, writs,

summons and documents" may be sent. A committee room does not therefore become an absolute necessity, and the hiring of one depends entirely upon the circumstances of the contest. Certainly one may use a room in one's own house as a committee room. In these elections there is no election return, and therefore no cost of committee rooms to be recorded.

The "Deritend Commonwealth," published by the Co-operative Party for the Division for which Fred Longden, M.P., sits, is a four-page monthly journal of which twelve to fifteen thousand copies are distributed. Our readers will know that we strongly favour activities of this kind wherever practicable. Address: The "Deritend Commonwealth," c/o W. E. Wheeldon, 164, High Street, Deritend, Birmingham.

#### **FOR SALE.**

A reader of the "Labour Organiser" has for disposal a foolscap sized Clay duplicator complete with four lots of ink of different tints, and only used about six times. The cost of the duplicator was twenty-one shillings and it is offered for sale at ten shillings carriage paid. Though the larger duplicators are of course preferable our correspondent thinks that his offer may be suitable to the pocket of some of the smaller Local Parties. Apply in first instance to the Editor.

## LABOUR INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Long Live the Labour  
**LIMBS !**

Young Labour Limbs - - See opposite page



# THE LABOUR PARTY

# League of Youth

## Monthly Bulletin

EDITOR :

W. ARTHUR PEACOCK.

No. 9 (NEW SERIES)

MARCH, 1931

A LETTER TO A YOUNG SOCIALIST

## POLITICS AND PLAY

**H**AS your League of Youth thought about its Summer programme? If not, then it is high time that it devoted some attention to it. There is an old saying that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." It is very true. You cannot hope to retain all your members through the summer if your branch arranges just the ordinary indoor business meetings. You have got to do something much more interesting. When the sun shines your comrades will want to be out enjoying themselves. They will want to wander along the beautiful country lanes around your home district, they will want to engage in all kinds of sports and to enjoy themselves as often and as much as is possible. What you have need to do is to arrange items on your programme that will enable them to do all these things and which at the same time will ensure that the League continues with its work.

### Sport and Socialism.

There are some branches who suspend activities in the summer time. This is unwise, for once contact with members is lost it is difficult indeed to regain it. I wonder whether you have thought of ways and means by which your League can combine pleasure with propaganda, sport with Socialism, and so maintain the interest of your comrades? Perhaps not. In any case let me put a few ideas before you.

The other day I was reading some reminiscences by Miss Sylvia Pankhurst. In her young days Miss Pankhurst lived in the Manchester district and there much good propaganda work for Socialism was done by The Clarion

Cyclists. She tells how the cyclists would go out in the surrounding villages, distribute leaflets, leave a copy of a socialist paper in an inn or café, stick labels on trees, fences and hoardings, hold meetings on the village green and say a word for Socialism whenever opportunity occurred.

### Pass on Pamphlets.

I think your members might do something like this during the summer. You have both cycling and rambling clubs. Arrange a ride or a ramble to a country place where Labour is not represented and where the people know little of Labour politics. Tell your local agent about your intentions and ask him for suitable literature that you can distribute. Hand them to the folks you see on those seats by the village inn, leave a few in the local café, distribute them to the various cottages, pin a few on tree trunks and other suitable places. You will be doing good work and you will get plenty of fun out of it, too. If you can hold a short meeting so much the better, but in any case get some pamphlets, persuade your cyclists to combine politics with play. What the older generation of cyclists did you, too, can do. They helped to build up our modern Labour movement by their easy-go-lucky methods of propaganda. The good work must not cease. The message of Socialism must still be spread. We can't have Socialism until we've made the Socialists. Become a propagandist now. Consider the matter at your next meeting. Enrol your ramblers and cyclists for the work NOW.

## How Federations Can Help

*"The prime business of this Conference, in my opinion, is to find ways and means of greater co-operation between the branches and to glean useful information as to the working of area committees and federations."*

*(The National Chairman, Birmingham Conference, 1931, address to Delegates).*

AT the Birmingham Conference in January, Mr. Paul Williams read a useful paper upon the work of Federations and Advisory Committees. In view of the conference decision to foster the development of such bodies it is felt that the following points from that paper may be usefully published in these columns. At the present time a sub-committee composed of members of the National Advisory Committee is examining rules of existing Federations and Mr. Williams' memorandum. Members of the League and particularly those who have experience of Federation and Advisory Committee work are asked to read what follows with care and to forward any suggestions that they may have or any criticisms that they have to offer, to Mr. R. T. Windle at Transport House South, Smith Square, S.W.1.

### How They Grow.

The National Advisory Committee has direct contact with Leagues by correspondence with Secretaries and through the Bulletin. This contact depends for its effectiveness upon the initiative of the local Secretaries of Leagues and their co-operation in responding to correspondence. Information is also obtained by N.A.C. members when attending League functions.

Federations and Advisory Committees are part of the machinery of organisation, which, by co-ordinating activity and assisting co-operation between Leagues, enables a fuller national growth and entity to be achieved.

At the time of our first National Conference in 1928 there were three Advisory Committees; at the recent Conference there were thirteen. It is hoped that as soon as Federations cover the country and Party finances permit that representatives to the N.A.C. will be drawn from groups of Federations and not as at present haphazardly from one national grouping.

The N.A.C. relies on the existing bodies advising them from time to time

of their activities, so all may benefit by the experience gained and not suffer unnecessary initial and later difficulties. Information at present in hand makes possible the following generalities to be made.

There appears to be no difference in function between an Advisory Committee and a Federation. The former existing where a Divisional Labour Federation is in active operation and the latter where none or one of a very precarious character exists.

The areas covered by the Federation or A.C. are not on a geographical basis, but on a practical organisation basis; such matters as transport, central meeting venues being decisive factors. Being still in an embryo stage, when a Federation has decided what area it shall cover, any League outside the area and unconnected with a Federation is usually admitted under the heading of Border Constituencies.

### Some Activities.

In areas covering a comparatively small area, but a large number of Leagues such as London. Or in areas covering a large square mileage with Leagues scattered at considerable distances such as Surrey and Buckingham. The Federation finds it advantageous to decentralise certain sections of its organisation by establishing Area Committees. The adoption of this course and the danger of organisation without sufficient to organise must be left to the good sense of local Comrades.

A Federation has no existence of its own. It is purely an instrument of organisation set up by Leagues, and its success or incompetency depends upon what Leagues put into it.

The activities for which a Federation should make provision are:—

Conferences for democratic expression.

Facilities for League Members to meet at other than formal Conferences.

Say by: week-end schools, summer schools (worked in conjunction with camps if desired), re-union socials, dances, demonstrations, rambles (foot, cycle, river), camps, hikes, visits to places of interest.

Other spheres of activity can include, Central debating team, inter-debates between Leagues.

Encourage Leagues to interchange dramatic groups.



If conveniently situated hold a monthly Socialist Youth Forum.

Take the initiative in establishing a model parliament in conjunction with Young Liberals and Conservatives.

Recruiting campaigns or concentrations.

Youth speakers' panel.

(a) To visit Leagues (own meetings).

(b) To visit Leagues (public meetings).

Sports leagues. Chess Leagues.

Issue letter heads.

Loan badge block to Leagues.

Arrange for inland and foreign correspondence exchange.

A Federation should see that all their Leagues are fully acquainted with the various activities and development of the Labour Youth Movement and direct the strength and energy of one group to the assistance of the weaker.

**A circular has been despatched to all branches outlining the proposal regarding League affiliation to the Young Socialist International. Secretaries are reminded of the importance of this and are asked to forward their branch decision to Mr. R. T. Windle, Transport House South, Smith Square, S.W.1, as soon as possible.**

A Federation should approach all Labour Parties within its area and place before them the advantages of having a League of Youth and assist in the initial stages.

In addition to the Secretary a liaison officer can with advantage be appointed to maintain closer contact between Leagues or members of the A.C. can be given a circuit of Leagues to visit regularly thus keeping the A.C. fully conversant with local activity.

### WORKERS' SPORTS.

The National Workers' Sports Association (which is under the auspices of the Trades Union Congress and the Labour Party)—in conjunction with the London Labour Party Sports Association—is holding a National Sports Meeting at the Crystal Palace on Saturday, June 20, 1931.

All the splendid field trophies of the L.L.P.S.A. will be competed for and a number of additional trophies offered for national competition.

This day will be the prelude to the

International Workers' Olympiad, Vienna, July, 1931, for the national events will be the eliminating contests for this, and the winners will be considered for places in the British Olympiad Team.

Free training under expert tuition of a former Army Champion Athlete for London entrants will be given at Battersea Park and Ruskin Park.

Leagues of Youth and Co-op Youth Guilds—between 16 and 18 years—can compete especially for two events.

Swimming contests are being included to take place in the beautiful lake in the Palace.

Admission to the Palace will be by "Labour Sports" tickets at the extraordinary low price of one shilling—special terms for organised Labour Parties, Trades Councils and sports groups.

This is the first big effort of the National Workers' Sports Association. It must be—it will be—a success if your organisation will enter into the spirit of the day. Will you make June 20 an outing day? And take steps to organise a party either by train or charabanc? There is parking space for 100 charabancs. Special rail facilities can also be obtained.

Will Secretaries please read this notice at the next meeting of their League and if you decide to participate send for further particulars about the sports and preliminary list of events and conditions of entry to the Sports' Organiser, Alec McLeod, 64 Danecroft Road, Herne Hill, S.E.24.

### JOIN A UNION.

An incident which occurred at a recent meeting of Chorley Trades Council has its moral for all Trade Unionists.

The Council has a rule that no one is eligible to appear as a delegate at its meetings if his wife (or her husband), or any children in industry are not Trade Unionists.

Exception was taken by six weavers' delegates, under this rule, to the presence of a power-loom overlookers' delegate, on the ground that his daughter, a winder, was not a member of her appropriate Trade Union.

The delegate, after considerable discussion, accordingly left the room, the weavers' delegates having intimated that they had been instructed by their executive to withdraw from the meeting unless their objection was sustained.

## By The Way

AT Birmingham I urged local secretaries to send along reports for the Bulletin and also useful articles of interest. My remarks have brought me a letter from Cambridge: "Our delegate came back from Birmingham with a heart-breaking tale about the failure of local secretaries to send you records of League activities. This accomplished the miracle of stirring my conscience, which I had long thought dead, and this is the result."

### Some Activities.

We have had a busy winter. The local party have given us the free use of their hall and we have had a successful club. Ping-pong, cards, boxing, dramatic group, country dancing, these are a few of the means by which we have enjoyed ourselves.

Our entertainment section has given shows at Labour Party socials and in particular a most successful one at the new year. We have assisted the Cambridge County Labour Party with entertainment in the villages. Our latest effort has been to entertain the inmates of the Cambridge Poor Law Institution. The Cambridge branch is responsible, too, for the distribution of the monthly "Citizen" in one of the backward wards. Future arrangements include a supper, a concert for the Labour Party, and other useful activities.

### Publicity Pays.

Eltham branch merits praise for the publicity it gains for its work. A report in a local paper tells of a meeting recently held at which Councillor Hunt gave an instructive lecture upon the present political situation. As a local councillor the lecturer had much that was interesting to say about the useful work that the Woolwich Borough Council had done and members of the League enjoyed both his talk and the opportunity to put questions to him regarding the subjects he had covered.

Another report culled from the same source tells of a mock parliament recently held at which a Bill for the alleviation of unemployment was introduced. The discussion following the address by members of the Front Bench and Opposition was not a little heated and after a great deal of talk from all sides of the House, the reading of the Bill was carried.

Other branches will do well to follow Eltham's example. Appoint a member to be responsible for publicity and see that he keeps the press informed of all activities.

Aston branch has organised a dramatic group which is actively rehearsing its first play in readiness for early production. Miss Camille Rose addressed the League in January. During February the fifth annual dinner was held, while at one of the branch meetings a great deal of discussion was aroused by a member of another branch who expressed "A Capitalist's View on Unemployment." A social has lately been held at which members entertained several other League of Youth branches.

### Leeds Again.

A still further useful idea comes from Leeds where Leagues of Youth are always active. A new branch has lately been added to the number already in existence in this town. Under the auspices of the Leeds Labour Party Joint Leagues of Youth a public meeting was held recently at which the local medical officer of health spoke upon "Youth and Health." Other branches might take up this idea. Municipal officials will gladly take advantage of the opportunity to talk about their work and to interest people of the locality in what they are doing. Local councillors will tell you the best people to approach. Visits to municipal undertakings are also features upon League programmes that attract interest.

The entries for the League competition have been received and are now in the hands of the judges. The number of entrants is disappointing and particularly in the case of the male members of the League. The biographical essay seems to have been the more popular of the two competitions. Results will be announced, it is hoped, in the next issue of the Bulletin.

### NOTICE.

"The League of Youth Monthly Bulletin" is issued by the Press and Publicity Department of the Labour Party. By arrangement with the "Labour Organiser" it is first published in the pages of that journal, from which it is reprinted for wider circulation.